A Locomotive on Sled Runners-Grading Through a Ferest With a Crossent Saw-On a Single Rail-A Successful

In a small book entitled "Wonders and Curiosities of the Railway," the author, Mr. W. S. Kennedy, touches on the anomalous and entertaining features of his subject in chapters bearing such suggestive titles as "The Lightning Harnessed," "The Locomotive in Slippers," "The Luxuries of Travel," and "A Handful of Curiosities."

Travel," and "A Handful of Curiosities."

It appears that some time ago a locemotive on sled runners was constructed in Scotland, and employed for drawing passengers and freight over the ice between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt. The two driving wheels in the rear were studded with sharp spikes, whereas the front part of the engine rested on a sled which was swiveled and turned to the right or left by wheels working in connection with an endless screw and a segment rack. From this locomotive, which is said to have run eighteen miles an hour in any direction, the transition is natural to railroads whose ties and tracks have been laid on the frozen surface of rivers. Mr. Kennedy tells us that surface of rivers. Mr. Kennedy tells us that in 1879, when the mercury stood twenty degrees below zero, a train of the Northern Pacific railroad passed over the Missouri river on ice three feet thick. The pressure which the ice resisted may be estimated from the fact that the track was laid on twelve foot ties, and that the cars carried over a quantity of railroad iron as well as a number of visitors. About a year after a similar road was built across the river St. Lawrence at

LAYING TIES ON THEE STUMPS.

Even more novel is the idea of grading for a railroad through a forest with a crosscut saw, and laying the ties on the stumps. This has actually been done in Sonoma county, in this state. Here the trees were sawed off and leveled, and the ties fastened on the stumps, leveled, and the ties fastened on the stumps, two of which were huge redwoods, standing side by side, and sawed off seventy-five feet from the ground. So firm is this supports that cars loaded with heavy logs can pass over with perfect security. Several wooden track railways are actually operated in the United States and Canada. One of these, in the province of Quetec, is thirty miles, long and is used in the transportation of timber. The rails are of maple and trains are said to run over them with remarkable smoothness at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour.

Still more curious are what Mr. Kennedy

Still more curious are what Mr. Kennedy would call the bicycle railways, where the would call the bicycle railways, where the car wheels run on a single rail. One called the "steam caravan" was begun in Syria, be tween Alleppo and Alexandretta, but apparently never finished. In the case of this experiment the rail was raised on a wall of masonry twenty-eight inches high and seventeen and one-half inches broad. On this one rail were to travel the wheels of the locomotive and the carriages attached, but it was intended to brace the engine and the last car in the train by obliquely placed leather-covin the train by obliquely placed leather-covered wheels, running along the sides of the wall, which wheels were further to serve as brakes. A single rail, or bicycle railroad, has also been built in the United States, and was in operation at Phonixville, Pa., in 1876. Since that date a two-wheeled locomotive has been made in Glocester, N. J., for an

elevated railroad in Atlanta, Ga. BY ATMOSPHERIO PRESSURE

There is nothing specially new in the project of atmospheric rallways, or, in other words, of propelling carriages along a large tube by producing a vacuum in front and applying atmospheric pressure behind. This device has not proved of much practical value, though a tubular road of this kind was for a time in actual operation at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. The tube in this instance, was of brick, a quarter of a mile instance was of brick, a quarter of a mile long, nine feet high and eight feet wide, and the car within it was used only for the convenience of passengers. The piston that propelled the car was rendered almost air tight by means of a fringe of bristles, extending nearly to the surrounding brick work of the tunnel and to its floor. A fan, worked by a steam engine, both exfan, worked by a steam engine, both exhausted and compressed the air. The motion of the car was pleasant, and the ventilation ample. In connection with this branch of his subject Mr. Kennedy tells us that a "flying locumotive" was made to justify its name at the aeronautical exhibition in England, in 1868. The engine weighed thirteen pounds, and was made to lift itself, with forty pounds in addition, to a height of six inches in continuous flight around the room. But a much more successful salling car was invented for the Kansas Pacific railroad, and has been used for years Pacific railroad, and has been used, for years as a hand car on that road. The mast is eleven feet high, and the triangular sail has two booms. On the plains a speed of forty miles an hour has been attained by this car with the wind right abeam, the sail closehauled, and the road full of disadvantageous

It will probably be news to most persons that in 1876, at Paris, one Dr. La Combe exhibited the model of a submarine railway which he proposed to lay on the bottom of the channel between Dover and Calais. On a roadbed of concrete three galvanized iron rails were to be placed, two for the track and one in the centre. To the central rail the car was to be attached by rollers, in order to prevent it being derailed by the waves. The boat car was to be air tight, and driven by a propeller strew worked by compressed air. Fresh air was to be supplied to the car was to be plied to the occupants of the car by a tube running up to the surface of the water, where it would be affixed to a buoy. Finally, a series of buoys on the surface would mark out the track of the car, which, in case of any accident, could be cut loose below, whereupon it would rise to the surface.—The

A Happy African Prince.

Prince Karamoko, who has seen the Eden theatre, the Opera house, the circus, Paris from a tower of Notre Dame, the Vendome column and the Arch of Triumph, the Gobelins, and was presented to M. Grevy, has left Chalons to return home by Bordeaux. The Black Prince, as he is called here, was greatly delighted with the military spectacle at Chalons, but what pleased him most was the breast of armor of the cuirassiers. He showed his pleasure by clapping his haut's and by verbal exclamations, the exact meaning of which was known only to his interpreter. which was known only to his interpreter. The general commanding the calvary division, on seeing how much the polished breast plates dazzled the prince, ordered a culras to be given to him. Prince Karamoko donned it on the spot, but in the midst of his joy his face suddenly lost. Its pleased look. "What's the matter with him?" asked the general, who saw tears start from his eyes. The interpreter inquired, and answered: "He says that his father will be sure to take it from him to wear it himself when the prince goes back to Africa." self when the prince goes back to Africa. Hence his distress. A second culrars was then given for Karamoko's sire, who is the greatest warrior on the west coast of Africa. It is more easy to imagine than to describe the joy of the "Black Princs" at this kindly ntion.—Paris Letter.

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Treasurer, Mr. P. C. Jones,
Secretary, Mr. J. O. Carrer,
Aud or, Mr. T. May.
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J. O. CARTER, Honolulu, Jan. 20, 1887.

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